Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, CS

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM: EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION UPON RESIGNATION OF COSTA RICAN FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO (S/S NO. 7616974) $\,$)

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM SHLAUDEMAN

1. THE PROBLEM:

COSTA RICAN FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO HAS ANNOUNCED THAT HE WILL RESIGN HIS OFFICE IN ORDER TO SEEK HIS PARTY'S NOMINATION AS CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENCY OF COSTA RICA. AMBASSADOR TODMAN AND I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AND GREATLY APPRECIATED IF YOU WOULD CABLE FACIO YOUR APPRECIATION FOR THE COOPERATION HE HAS EXTENDED TO THE U.S. DURING HIS YEARS AS FOREIGN MINISTER.

2. DISCUSSION:

ON AUGUST 3, GONZALO FACIO ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY THAT HE INTENDS TO STEP DOWN FROM OFFICE IN ORDER TO RUN AS A CANDIDATE FOR HIS PARTY'S PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION. FACIO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROBABLY WILL NOT RESIGN UNTIL THE END OF SEPTEMBER. HE

PLANS TO HEAD THE COSTA RICAN DELEGATION TO THE U.N. AND MAKE WHAT WILL BE HIS FAREWELL SPEECH IN NEW YORK.

- 3. FACIO'S POLITICAL AMBITIONS HAVE BEEN KNOWN FOR SOME TIME. HIS ANNOUNCEMENT NOW, HOWEVER, COMES AS SOMETHING OF A SURPRISE SO FAR IN ADVANCE OF THE FEBRUARY, 1978 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. BUT THERE IS STRONG COMPETITION FOR THE ADMINISTRATION PARTY'S NOMINATION AND FACIO IS ONLY ONE OF FOUR SERIOUS CONTENDERS. HE LACKS GRASS-ROOTS SUPPORT AND WILL HAVE TO CAMPAIGN VIGOROUSLY TO MAKE UP GROUND BEFORE THE PARTY CHOOSES ITS CANDIDATE LATE THIS YEAR OR EARLY NEXT. FACIO WILL PROBABLY RETURN TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IF UNSUCCESSFUL.
- 4. AMBASSADOR TODMAN AND I THINK IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AND MUCH APPRECIATED IF YOU WERE TO SEND A PERSONAL MESSAGE TO FACIO AT THIS TIME. THE MESSAGE WOULD EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR THE COOPERATION HE HAS GIVEN US AS FOREIGN MINISTER, MENTION THE PERSONAL PLEASURE YOU HAVE HAD IN WORKING WITH FACIO, AND EXTEND TO HIM YOUR WARM GOOD WISHES.

5. RECOMMENDATION:

THAT YOU AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT TO INSTRUCT EMBASSY SAN JOSE TO TRANSMIT THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM YOU TO FACIO

APPROVE DISAPPROVE

6. TEXT OF CABLE TO SAN JOSE:

QUOTE. DEAR GONZALO:

I CAN UNDERSTAND YOUR DECISION TO RESIGN AS FOREIGN MINISTER IN ORDER TO SEEK HIGHER OFFICE. BUT I MUST EXPRESS MY PERSONAL DISTRESS AT LOSING SUCH A VALUED COLLEAGUE AND FRIEND. YOUR

WISE COUNSEL, UNFAILING COOPERATION AND FIRM GRASP OF THE ISSUES HAVE BEEN OF INESTIMABLE VALUE TO ME AND TO ALL OF US CONCERNED WITH STRENGTHENING THE SENSE OF UNDERSTANDING AND COMMON PURPOSE IN THE HEMISPHERE. WE WILL PARTICULARLY MISS YOUR OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP IN ALWAYS STRESSING MODERATION AND REASON IN OUR DELIBERALIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TIONS.

7. IT WAS A CONSOLATION, HOWEVER, TO LEARN THAT YOU WILL BE ATTENDING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY BEFORE LEAVING OFFICE. I VERY MUCH LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN NEW YORK. WARM REGARDS, HENRY A. KISSINGER END OUOTE.

8. DRAFTED: ARA: HSHLAUDEMAN; CLEARED: S: RAHERNI
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